In th Sp cification:

On page 1, replace the paragraph on lines 8-20 with the following paragraph:

--Cross-reference is made to U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos., which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference: 09/737,552, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Factoring Ambiguous Finite State Transducers"; 09/737,940, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Factoring Unambiguous Finite State Transducers"; 09/737,939, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Aligning Ambiguity In Finite State Transducers"; 09/737,758, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Factoring Finite State Transducers With Unknown Symbols"; 09/737,553, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Extracting Infinite Ambiguity When Factoring Finite State Transducers"; 09/737,857, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Reducing The Intermediate Alphabet Occurring Between Cascaded Finite State Transducers"; 09/737,757, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Extracting Short Runs Of Ambiguity From Finite State Transducers".--

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted prior to examination for the purposes of adding serial numbers to the specification that were not available at the time of filing.